(c) the details of drugs seized in India during the last three years, year-wise and drug-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As in the previous years, India has been identified as one of the major illicit drug producing and / or drug transit countries in the US Department of State's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for the year 2003. In response, a comprehensive report containing the overall counter-narcotics performance of India has been forwarded to the US Authorities for a favourable certification for the year 2004.

(c) The details of major drugs seized in the country during the last three years, as reported by the different Drug Enforcement Agencies upto 31.1.2005, are as under:

	Quantity seized (in Kg)		
Drug	2002	2003	2004
Heroin	879	991	1156
Opium	1835	1720	2224
Morphine	66	109	97
Ganja	88491	79653	140216
Hashish	3010	3013	4555

Amendment to Securitisation Act

2208. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring an amendment to the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debt Act to strengthen banks in recovering dues from the defaulters;

(b) how the proposed amendment would prevent the defaulters from employing delaying tactics by using the Supreme Court's ruling;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the SC has struck down Sub-Section (2) of Section 17 of the above Act;

(d) if so, the reasons behind striking down the above Sub-Section; and

(e) what Government propose to do in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) In the light of the Supreme Court judgment in case of Mardia Chemicals *vs* ICICI Bank Ltd. & Ors, in which sub-section (2) & Section 17 was struck down, certain amendments to the SARFAESI Act were necessitated and therefore the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 was promulgated on November 11, 2004, which became an Act in December, 2004. The salient features of the Act are as follows:-

(a) Withdrawal of Public Financial Institution status of the registered securitisation company/reconstruction company.

(b) Enabling securitisation company/reconstruction company to file application for transferring all pending application to any one of the Debts Recovery Tribunals in case where banks and financial institutions have filed applications in two or more Debts Recovery Tribunal in case of any financial assets of a borrower, comprising of secured debts of more than one bank or financial institution.

(c) Recognition of Trust structure.

(d) Giving additional powers to RBI for specifying conditions for registration and calling for statements and information.

(e) To consider the representation of the borrower by the secured creditor where security interest has been enforced and reasons for non-acceptance of the representation is to be communicated to the borrower.

(f) In the absence of Debts Recovery Tribunal in Jammu & Kashmir, provision has been made for making an application to the Court of District Judge in the State of Jammu and Kashmir by a borrower who is aggrieved with the action of secured creditor and further to file an appeal in the High Court against the order or Court of District Judge where the borrower is aggrieved by such order.

(g) The requirement of deposit of 75 per cent of the claim by the borrower before making an application to the Debts Recovery Tribunal against the action of secured creditor has been removed.

(h) The total pendency of the application with the Debts Recovery Tribunal shall not exceed four months from the date of making application.

(i) If the application is not disposed of by the Debts Recovery Tribunal within the period of four months, any party to the application may make an application to the appellate tribunal for directing the Debts Recovery Tribunal for expeditious disposal of the application pending before the Debts Recovery Tribunal. The appellate tribunal may make an order for expeditious disposal of the pending application by the Debts Recovery Tribunal.

(j) No appeal to the Appellate Tribunal against the order of Debts Recovery Tribunal by a borrower to be entertained unless the borrower deposits 50 per cent of the amount due from him, which may be reduced by the Appellate Tribunal to not less than 25 per cent of the debt due.

Merger of RRBs with sponsor Banks

2209. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three Nationalised Banks have submitted proposals for amalgamating some of the Regional Rural Banks sponsored by them and the proposals are awaiting the response of the respective State Governments;

(b) whether the consolidation proposals are lying with him and will be proceeded further after Government have received the States' views on this issue; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) As a step towards consolidation of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) sponsored by the same bank within a State, a meeting was held on 16th February 2005 with the representatives of some sponsor banks of RRBs and the State Governments concerned for considering amalgamation of RRBs. The proposals for amalgamation of three RRBs sponsored by Bank of Baroda in Gujarat, three RRBs